

gentleman who respected the views of his colleagues, as we all respected his.

It was during that time that Eni and I had the opportunity to travel together to the Republic of Korea, Japan and Taiwan to meet with the leaders of those nations and discuss the economic, political and security issues in the region. In those many meetings, Eni was an engaged participant who clearly had earned the respect of our allies. There were two of us—one Democrat, one Republican. But there was no partisanship on that trip. Eni came not as a Democrat but as a thoughtful Member of Congress who understood the realities of the modern day Asia-Pacific region.

I think you can tell a lot about an individual Member of Congress by what his colleagues and staff think of him. In all the years I had the privilege of knowing Eni, I never heard a negative word from anybody about him. His colleagues respected him—appreciating his hard work, his dedication to this institution, his service during the Vietnam War, and his love for American Samoa. And his staff thought the world of him—as did mine.

Mr. Speaker, to his wife, Hina, and his children, grandchildren, former staff and extended family—my sincere condolences. Eni was an outstanding public servant, a proud Samoan, and a great American. He will be missed. Rest in peace, Eni.

CONGRESSMAN ENI
FALEOMAVAEGA

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize the long career and dedication to public service of Congressman Eni Faleomavaega. Congressman Faleomavaega passed away on February 22, 2017. He served the people of American Samoa for over thirty years, first as Lieutenant Governor and later on as their Representative.

A true patriot, Congressman Faleomavaega served his country in the Army and eventually became an officer in the United States Army Reserve, having served during the Vietnam War as a captain. As a legislator, his achievements for the people of our nation and American Samoa came through his important work with the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Committee on Natural Resources. He fought tirelessly for the prosperity and wellbeing of his people. I am proud to be able to say that I was able to serve alongside Congressman Faleomavaega in the House of Representatives from 2009–2015.

It is my honor to commemorate Eni Faleomavaega today, and I take pride in recognizing a great American and public servant. Today, his commitment to public service lives on through his great nephew, Andrew Tuitele, who is currently an intern in my district office in Aurora, Colorado.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CON-
GRESSMAN ENI FALEOMAVAEGA

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, today let's honor the life and service of our dear colleague, my friend, the late Congressman Eni Fa'a'ua'a Hunkin Faleomavaega, Jr.

My memories with Congressman Faleomavaega extend back to small-kid time, in Hawaii—he was elected to Congress as American Samoa's delegate when I was just 8 years old. On his way to and from American Samoa, he would often stop in Hawaii, pay visits to his alma mater Kahuku High School, watch a Red Raider game or two, and visit with friends and family in Hawaii's vibrant Samoan and Polynesian community. I grew up understanding and appreciating Fa'a Samoa—The Samoan Way—which like the aloha spirit, refers to how we should respect and honor one another, no matter where you're from or your stature in life. He shared this Fa'a Samoa every day with his colleagues and others in Washington, seven thousand miles from his homeland. It was a very special thing to serve alongside him as a Member of Congress when I was elected in 2012. We served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and he often pulled me aside to talk story about his experiences on this committee, the places he'd been, and the people he'd met.

Eni was a warrior, a public servant, a devoted Christian, and a family man. He was born in Vailoatai Village in American Samoa. It's a beautiful and culturally rich island with that small-town feel where everybody knows everybody. Eni's father served in the military, so growing up, he moved around a bit. He lived in Guam and later moved to Hawaii and attended Kahuku High School and Brigham Young University on Oahu's northeast shore, eventually graduating from the main BYU campus in Utah. Eni was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints alongside his wife Hina and their family.

Eni was a soldier in the United States Army. He served honorably in Vietnam, earned the rank of Captain, joined the Reserves decades later, and unfortunately suffered from complications associated with his exposure to Agent Orange. Throughout his four decades of service in Congress (1989–2015), he worked hard for the people of American Samoa and for our veterans, caring for them deeply and fighting for them relentlessly. As a delegate, Congressman Faleomavaega was passionate about representing his people and ensuring the communities at home had the resources they needed, especially health care and other essential services. He staunchly opposed free trade deals so that the few but impactful industries of American Samoa would not be devastated. He always put the people first, and he served with all of his heart.

So as we honor the life and service of this great man, Eni Fa'a'ua'a Hunkin Faleomavaega, Jr., we send our deepest gratitude to his 'aiga (family) for their support and sacrifice over the years.

Traditionally, at a Samoan memorial service, guests give the grieving family hand-woven mats in a ceremonial exchange of gifts called fa'alavelave. We don't have one here today, but offer these words in their absence: Fa'afetai Tele Lava (thank you), Fa'amanuia le Atua (God bless), and Fa Soifua.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 2017, I was unable to be present for the recorded votes on roll call no. 170, 171, and 172. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: AYE on Hanabusa Amendment No. 11, YEA on the final passage of H.R. 1367, and AYE on the journal vote.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONOR-
ABLE WILLIAM F. ADOLPH, JR.
OF SPRINGFIELD, PA

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Honorable William F. Adolph, Jr. of Springfield, PA on his retirement and thank him for his decades of service to Delaware County families. Bill is retiring as Representative from the 165th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, where he served as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. After more than thirty years of public service, Bill has earned a record as a champion for the middle class, small and growing businesses and fiscal responsibility in Harrisburg.

Throughout his career in public service, first as a township commissioner in Springfield, as a lawmaker in Harrisburg and ultimately as the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Bill has always fought to ensure the taxpayer got the most out of every dollar government spends. He's fought to lessen the tax burden on job creators and spur economic growth. He's fought to ensure Pennsylvania's most vulnerable have access to the services they need. And he's fought to hold government accountable to the people it serves.

As important as his legislative achievements have been to Pennsylvania, perhaps his greatest legacy is the role model he's been to countless young people as a coach and through his decades-long involvement with the Springfield Youth Club. He's taught generations of Springfield's young people how to conduct themselves with integrity and responsibility—both on and off the field.

I thank Bill for all he's done for our state and our community, and I wish him the best in his retirement.